

would be a still greater one. Without the one*the other would be as useless as the building of a navy if there were no sailors to man it. There has been an uneasy suspicion in the hearts of many that the one has not kept progress with the other, and that while we have been multiplying chapels, sufficient care has not been taken to insure a supply of able ministers. I for one rejoice, therefore, that the place which is assigned to the question of Church finance in its bearing on ministerial incomes in the programme of our proceedings, indicates that the importance of the subject is being felt; for it is perfectly certain that the position which the ministers are to occupy must not only materially affect the supply of men for the office, but even the efficiency with which they discharge its duties.

POSITION OF NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS.

On the Churches will undoubtedly very much depend the character of the ministry, both as to the class of men who are attracted into it, and the power they exercise in the world. Looked at in a worldly point of view, the position of the Nonconformist minister is not enticing. He must not only renounce all prospects of ease and wealth, but he is without some of those social compensations which the clergy of the Establishment enjoy. If he has a status, it is what he makes for himself, not what is at once accorded to him; and the marvel is that he should have it at all. If he is a man of culture and scholarship it is with difficulty that he receives credit for what he has; and if he does, it is often accompanied with a slight upon his brethren which makes the praise of himself offensive to a loyal heart. The general assumption (and it is one which some even of our Liberal journals are continually parading before the world) is that the Dissenting minister is an uncultured and narrow-minded man, of a class into whose Philistine understandings few rays of light have penetrated, and in whose Philistine hearts few rills of sweetness are to be found. We as ministers need not fret ourselves about this; but our Churches should not forget it, and should feel that the only worldly compensation we can have for it is to be found in their true love, their generous confidence, their loyal support. It is their ministers rather than they who have to face the odium which still attaches to Nonconformity; for the clergy and even bishops who would freely snub a Dissenting minister, are singularly complaisant to the Dissenting layman. We have a right to ask from our Churches that they strengthen our hands and uphold our position, and that not so much for our sake or on our account as for common interests dear to us all.

MINISTERIAL INCOMES.

To refer to ministerial incomes in this connection may appear to some an unworthy condescension to material considerations. But, unfortunately, ministers cannot, any more than other men, pretend to an absence of material wants, and cannot afford, therefore, to be unconcerned as to the way in which they are to be supplied. Very much more depends on the happy solution of the financial problems which they have continually to face than is evident on the surface, or than would be suspected by those who talk so jauntily about what presses so very lightly upon themselves. Nothing is cheaper than the suggestion that thoughts about the amount of their income are too mundane to have a place in the minds of those who are working to save souls, but no work can be done unless the health and strength of the worker be maintained; and ministers have not yet found any means of doing this without money. Social position and comfort are among the least things involved in this question of income. Freedom from harassing and lowering care, deliverance from the incessant frets so destructive of all mental force, which impecuniosity much entails, calm of spirit and concentration of thought, more abundant opportunities for intellectual cultivation, and last, but not least, the joyous feeling which is produced by the assurance of a people's attachment as expressed in this loving ministry to their need, are benefits which our pastors may hope to enjoy from increased thought and generosity in relation